

Satyam Vada – Dharmam Chara
(A skit highlighting importance of truth and morality)

Characters:

Ajay:	A MBBS student studying in a medical college, living with his friend
Suresh:	Ajay's roommate and friend
Shyam:	Ajay's servant
Father:	Ajay's father
Mother:	Ajay's mother
Ganshyam:	Sai Niketan Ashram warden
Rahul:	A helper in Sai Niketan Ashram
Arun:	One of the inmate children residing in the ashram
Kishore:	A wealthy businessman
Dr. Sreehari:	A doctor who visits Ashram to treat the inmates

Narration:

Om Sri Sai Ram.

Our most humble pranaams at the lotus feet of our beloved Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba. Our Swami says that it is only by practicing Human Values of **Satya and Dharma**, that man can get lasting peace and happiness.

To depict this, we, the Balavikas students of Swami are presenting a skit named "**Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara**".

(Music Interlude)

The key characters in this play are:

Ajay - An MBBS student who is living in an apartment with his friends away from his home. He believes that money & material success is most important in life and is ready to do anything for it.

Suresh – Ajay's friend and roommate who keeps advising Ajay to reform.

Ajay's Father/Mother - Want Ajay to live a life based truth – and are shocked to know about his wrong-doings.

Ganshyam – is the head of Sai Niketan Ashram.

Let us watch how Ajay's outlook in life is transformed.

The scene opens as Ajay is busy making preparations to receive his parents.

Scene I

[Ajay's parents enter]

Ajay: Oh Daddy, Mummy you are here so early. I thought you would take at least an hour more.

Daddy: Ajay how wonderful to see you, my boy. See your Mummy has brought you some sweets and some pakodas, which you like so much.

Mummy: Oh my boy! How are you? Are you well? Do you eat properly? Are you studying well? Is the college good?

Ajay: [hits his forehead with his hand]: Mummy will you be quiet? So many questions? ALWAYS... fussing... bah!

[Ajay just walks out of the house in anger]

Daddy: Umm – Ajay has not changed. Here we have come all this way to see him and he just walks out! (Shakes his head sadly).

[There is a knock on the door. The servant Shyam is waiting to come in. He has a packet in his hand.].

Daddy: Who is there?

Shyam: Me, Shyam, Sir. Are you Ajay Sir's parents? Oh – very happy to see you sir. Please sit down.

Daddy: Oh I am very happy that you are there to take care of Ajay. Does he give you a lot of trouble?

Shyam: No sir. He does not give any trouble. Just a minute I will keep this inside and make some tea for you.

Mummy: What is this? It smells very strange...

Shyam: Oh ! This is chicken. Ajay sir wants chicken every day for lunch.

Mummy: Eeek! Chicken! Oh my God!

Daddy: Shyam, we are vegetarians, we do not eat non-veg food.

Shyam: Oh! I am very sorry sir! Very Sorry! I shall immediately return this!

[Shyam goes running out of the house]

Mummy: Alas! This boy has started eating non-veg food. What will he do next? What shall I tell his grandparents? They will be so upset.

[Ajay enters the house]

Ajay: Hi Dad! Has Shyam come yet?

Daddy: Yes he has. He has just gone out again.

Ajay: That lazy fellow! Why should he go out again? Avoiding work all the time.

Daddy: I only asked him to go out – I wanted him to return the chicken he bought.

Ajay: (jumps slightly). Ohh! He bought chicken, did he? Silly fellow – he cannot stay without eating chicken...

Daddy: Oh! He is the one who eats chicken, is it?

Ajay: Yes, Daddy. He loves it. I do not allow him to cook it so he buys it. When he comes back I will teach him a lesson.

Daddy : Ajay! Stop lying to me. You eat non veg food and you falsely blame your poor servant. Have the courage to accept what you have done. Don't you know that lying is a sin?

Ajay: Daddy! Started lecturing again uh! You and your foolish old-fashioned ideas!

[Ajay leaves the house in anger again.]

Scene II[Suresh, Ajay's roommate enters the house.]

Suresh: Namaste, Uncle and Auntie – you must be Ajay's parents. I am Suresh.

Daddy: Oh Good afternoon to you, my boy. How are you?

Suresh: Very fine Uncle.

Mummy: Tell me, how is college? Ajay told us that he came first in the college last term. Does he study very hard?

Suresh (to himself): Alas! They do not know that he cheats!

(Aloud): He always gets good marks.

Mummy: Suresh – my boy! I will ask you some questions about Ajay – and you must tell me the truth. If you tell lies, it will be like lying to your own mother. OK?

Suresh: Auntie – Please do not put me in a difficult spot like this. Please spare me!

Daddy: No, my son, we must ask you. I understand your position but as parents, unless we know how our son is behaving, how will we correct him? You must tell us the truth!

Mummy: Tell us the truth. Does Ajay really study hard? All his books look like they have not even been opened. How come he gets good marks then?

Suresh: He ... he ... cheats during the exams..

Mummy: Tell me - what does he do the entire day then?

Suresh: He likes seeing movies all the time.

Daddy: But how does he get money for all that?

Suresh: Please do not ask me that uncle.

Daddy: No you must tell us the truth.

Suresh: He...he sells medicines.

Mummy: Medicines? What medicines?

Suresh: In the hospital we get some free medicines. The government gives the hospital such free medicines to give to poor people. Ajay and some other students sell those medicines for money.

Daddy: Oh my god! This is criminal! What happened to you? (Ajay's mother falls on the floor)

Suresh: Don't worry auntie. OK Uncle. I have to go to the library. Bye auntie.

[Suresh leaves the room]

Daddy: How are we going to change Ajay? God please show us a way out!

(Background music – Tu Pyar ka sagar hai)

(Father and mother are praying to god)

(Daddy's mobile phone rings).

Daddy: Hello! Who is it?

Voice: Sir, this is Ganshyam from Sai Niketan Ashram in Mahabalipuram. How are you sir?

Daddy: Oh! Ganshyamji! I am fine sir – how are you all? How is the ashram?

Voice: We are all fine. I just called to ask you for some favor sir.

Daddy: Please tell me – I shall do my best.

Voice: Well our ashram boy Prasad has to go to his hometown urgently and wants one month's leave. He is leaving us next week. I was wondering if you know any boy who can replace him for one month.

Daddy: Really? Let me think and get back to you.

Voice: Thank you sir and Sai Ram.

[Daddy hangs up the phone. He looks around for a second and then suddenly starts laughing]

Daddy: God is truly great! He sends us an answer to our prayers as soon as we make it! He has found the perfect answer.

Mummy: What ? What are you talking about?

Daddy: This was Ganshyamji from Sai Niketan Ashram. His ashram boy Prasad wants a month's leave and Ganshyamji wants a replacement boy...and Ta Da – that is going to be Ajay!

Mummy: Ajay!

Daddy: Yes ! But I am hoping that by God's grace, seeing all those people there would make his heart change.

Mummy: You could be right. Anyway next week onwards would be Ajay's vacation time. Let him spend it in the Ashram!

[Ajay enters the house]

Daddy: Ah ! Ajay. You have come at the right time.
I have an order for you. You better do it or else.....

Ajay (to himself): My God! I have never seen him looking so fierce. What's up I wonder..

[Strong violin background music – no dialogues- only action for the following - Ajay's father orders Ajay to spend his vacation at the Ashram. Ajay is not at all happy with the idea. Though Ajay is very upset with this he has no choice. He had never seen his father so angry before. Hence out of fear Ajay agrees.]

Ajay : No no, I cannot.

Father: You should.....

Scene III [Ajay and his father go to the Ashram and meet Ghanshyamji who heads the ashram.]

[At the Ashram Background music – Vaishnava janato]

Ghanshyam: Sai Ram brother Raman... come come Ajay , How are you?

Ajay: O.K. O.K. Can you tell me where my room is?

Ghanshyam: Yes yes we will show you. First have a wash.

[Ajay goes inside]

Daddy: Ghanshyamji, I want Ajay to understand the importance of human values for joyful living. I am sure with our swami's grace he will transform into a good human being. I will take leave of you.

Ghanshyam: Do not worry. Swami is there.

Daddy: Thank you Sairam.

Scene V(Ajay is sitting with Ghanshyam. Ajay has been asked to type a few letters.Just then Rahul, an ashram boy enters)

Rahul: Sairam Ghanshyamji.

Ghanshyam: Sairam Rahul.

Rahul: The last two rooms in the first floor are leaking. Is it possible to repair and paint those rooms?

Ghanshyam: Rahul, get somebody urgently to do the repairs for the leakage. But painting cannot be done now. You know our financial position. Let us wait. Swami sends everything on time.

Rahul: O.k. Ghanshyamji. I will go and get Nandu to do the repairs.

(Rahul leaves the room and Kishore enters)

Narrator: Kishore is a very wealthy businessman. However he does business in things which are harmful to society. Kishore is very proud of his wealth and thinks that money can buy everything. He comes to the ashram and meets Ghanshyamji.

Kishore: Hello sir. My name is Kishore and I am a businessman.

Ghanshyam: Sairam. Please come in and have your seat.

Kishore: I have heard a lot about this ashram. It seems you have 30 orphans and 15 old people as inmates here.

Ghanshyam: Yes you are right.

Kishore: I want to give 10 lakhs as donation to your ashram.

Ghanshyam: I am afraid I cannot accept your kind offer.

Kishore: Why? I am not asking you anything in return.

Ghanshyam: Dear sir, It is not our practice to accept donations like this.

Kishore: You see 10 lakhs is a huge amount of money. You need money and I am willing to give you.

Ghanshyam: It is the quality that is important and not the quantity. We believe that our Swami runs the ashram. We never fall short of funds for any necessities. You are a very kind man to make this offer. Is there anything else you want to talk to me?

Kishore: You people will always live like this only.. Bah.....
(Kishore in anger breaks the flower vase on the table)

Ghanshyam: Wait young man. Do not get angry. The Lord is always with you.
(Kishore leaves the place but forgets the cell phone on the table.)

Ajay: What is this? Why are behaving so foolishly? You should have taken the money and done the painting?

Ghanshyam: Money comes and goes but morality comes and grows. This ashram has been formed for the purpose of serving society and not harming society.

Ajay: But you are not harming society. He is a businessman and he is not going to lose anything.

Ghanshyam: Patra shuddhi and padhartha shuddhi also hold good to the money we receive. The money that we get should be earned from noble activities.
Anyway let me clean the place.

Ajay: Should I call the servant?

Ghanshyam: Ajay everyone is a servant of god. No one is the master here. Our Swami is the only master for all.

(Ghanshyam gets the broom and cleans the place)

(just then Kishore is about to enter the room to take his cellphone. He hears the conversation between Ajay and Ghanshyam)

Ajay: That man broke your vase and you are telling him that god is always with you... Did you not get angry with that man? If I had been in your place I would have slapped him on his face.

Ghanshyam: If you cannot oblige, atleast speak obligingly. Even our enemies become friends through love.

Ajay: He is never going to become a friend. And I thinkyou need to change and not him.

Ghanshyam: You know, anger enslaves man. Anger shows his helplessness. He was not angry with me but with himself because he could not convince me.

Kishore (falls at the feet of Ghanshyam): Luckily I came back to take my cellphone and heard your conversation. I am very ashamed of my behavior. You have opened my eyes. Thank you sir....

(Kishore leaves)

Ghanshyam: Sairam.....Ajay, did you see the change in the businessman?

Ajay: I never expected that from him.

Ghanshyam: I told you that our Swami is the master of this place. Come let us go and see the repaired rooms.

Scene V(Ajay and Ghanshyam inspects the repaired rooms and also the children who have been moved to the ground floor)

(All children are playing. A small boy Arun is looking dull)

Ghanshyam: Arun, are you not playing?

Arun: I am having slight headache.

Ghanshyam: Come let me see (touches his forehead) You are having slight fever also. Ajay call up Dr Sree Hari. Tell him that you are calling from Sai Niketan and that one of the children has fever.

(Ajay goes out and comes back)

Ajay: Ghanshyamji The doctor said he would be here in 10 minutes.

Ghanshyam: That doctor is a great human being. He loves all children here.
(Doctor arrives)

Doctor: Sairam Ghanshyamji. What happened to Arun? Let me go and see.
Looks like viral fever. I will prescribe some medicines for him. He will be become completely all right. Bye Arun. Take rest.
(Doctor leaves)

Ghanshyamji: Ajay Take 500 rupees from the cash box and get the medicines.

(Ajay buys the medicines and comes back)

Ajay: These medicines are very expensive. Here is the bill sir.

Ghanshyam: Earlier we used to go to the government hospitals and get the medicines free of cost.

Ajay: Why don't we do the same now?

Ghanshyam: Nowadays some of the college students sell these medicines to make money. The youth of today seem to be having no values at all. The sufferers are the poor people of our country.
(Ajay sits down and cries uncontrollably)

Ajay: What have I done... what have I done.....

Ghanshyam: What happened Ajay?

Ajay: I am very ashamed of my behaviour. I was also one among those students who sold free medicines. I was so selfish and money minded. I did not realize its impact on poor people. Uncle I want to change. I want to become good.

Ghanshyam: See Swami has given you courage to accept your mistake openly. You are a brave boy. Do not repeat your mistake.

Ajay: No wonder my father was so upset with me.

Ghanshyam: Those who love us always want to see us as good people. You are a very good person by nature. Your father will be proud of you one day.
Come let us go and arrange for dinner. (They leave the room)

(Pause – Music interlude)

Scene VI (Ajay falls sick with chickunguniya)

Ghanshyam: Ajay I just called up your parents and told them that you are having Chikungunya. They will be here any time.

Arun: Ajay bhaiyya How are you feeling now?

Ajay: Arun don't come near me. You may get fever again.

Arun: No, no I will not get. Our uncle says we should show more love when people are sick.

(Pause)

Ajay: Ah.... Amma (in pain)

Arun : What happened bhaiyya?

Ajay : My legs are paining so much.

Arun: Let me press your legs.

(Ajay has tears in his eyes)

Ajay: It is o.k. You go and play.

Arun: How can we play when our bhaiyya is in pain?. All the others are jointly praying for your speedy recovery.

[Background – Om bhur bhuvah]

Ajay: You are all very good children.

Ghanshyam: Arun I will take care of bhaiyya. You go and study.

Arun: Bye uncle, bye bhaiyya..take care.

(Ajay starts crying again)

Ghanshyam: Ajay, take rest. Do not think about the past.

Ajay: Uncle I am so ashamed of myself. These children are so good.

Ghanshyam: Who said you are not good?

Ajay: I cannot remember one thing I did which made people around me happy.

Ghanshyam: Don't worry. You parents will be here any minute. They are going to be very happy to see you.

(parents come running alongwith Suresh, Ajay's friend)

Mother: Ajay my boy, How are you?

Father: Ajay (hugs him touches his forehead) Do you still have fever?

Ajay: No Daddy. I am fine now – thanks to all these wonderful people. Thank you very much for making me stay at this place.

Suresh: He was cursing to come to this place before and now he loves it!

Mother: Suresh – remember you were hesitating to tell us the truth about Ajay. However, only because you told us everything about him that, all this could happen.

Father: Yes my son. Truth is the foundation for lasting happiness.

Ajay: I have also realized that one vice leads to another. I did not respect my parents. How can I become a good doctor if I do not study well? And selling medicines was something so criminal.... When I think of it now, I feel SO miserable.

Father: Don't worry my boy! It is not too late to correct oneself. God is always waiting for man to realize his mistakes and march towards the path of Truth and righteousness. Our Swami always says Sathyam vada, Dharmam chara.

Ajay: Earlier, I always had the fear of getting caught for all my wrong doings. I was never at peace with myself. Seeing the behavior, love and the principled living of the inmates here, I have realized that lasting peace and happiness come from human values which are eternal.

Mummy: Ajay I am so happy that you have realized this. My son, today the number of people who practice the values of True life have reduced. If young people like you & Suresh once again take them up, the world will soon become a paradise with Satya and Dharma everywhere!

Ajay: Oh Mummy!

Father (looks at Ghanshyam, holds his hand) How am I going to thank our Lord for this?

Ghanshyam: Let us all thank Swami by spreading His message. Let us touch our Swami's heart by living on values everyday. Let me call the children. Let us have a joint prayer before you leave.

(Bhajan - Satya dharma shanti prema..)

Jai Sairam